STAR OF MYSORE

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STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Thursday 12th March 2026

State Women's Commission Chief's two-day Mysuru visit

Mysuru, Mar.12- Karnataka State Women's Commission Chairperson Dr. Nagalakshmi Choudhary will undertake a two-day tour of the district on Mar.13 and 14.

Dr. Nagalakshmi

Dr. Nagalakshmi who will arrive in city at 11 am tomorrow, will take part in 'Jan Sunwayi' programme at Chamundeshwari auditorium in Regional Commissioner's Office here . Later, she will take part as the chief guest at the 'Midnight Walkathon' organised by city's Bharat Cancer Hospital and Oncology Institute as part of International Women's Day, in front of Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple at the Palace North Gate at 8 pm.

On Mar.14, she will take part in "Yoga stops trafficking" programme organised by city's NGO Odanadi at 7 am. Thereafter, she will leave for Bengaluru at 2 pm.

'Jan Sunwayi' meeting tomorrow

As part of International Women's Day, the National Women's Commission, in association with Karnataka State Women's Commission, has organised a six-day 'Maha Jan Sunwayi' programme (Women's Commission at your doorstep) from Mar. 8 to 13, a meeting of which will take place from 10 am on Mar.13 at Chamundeshwari auditorium in Regional Commissioner's office, opposite Kalamandira on Hunsur Road. DC, City Police Commissioner, SP, ZP CEO, DHO, DDPI and other top officials of the district will take part.

Women can attend the meeting and submit their grievances. For details, visit the Department of Women and Child Development at Vijayanagar second stage or contact- Ph: 0821- 2495432.

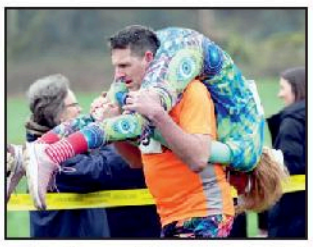
EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

VEDIC WISDOM ON CHARITY: ***The Vedas illuminate the subtle paths of the divine journey that are otherwise unknown to us, presenting them through sacred narratives and prayers. Among these, the principles of charity are explained with great clarity and reverence. Charity, the Vedas declare, should be offered with complete dedication and a selfless heart. Sri Sundara Rama Vajapeya Swami, while expounding the significance of charity, cited the Rigveda, Eighth Ashtaka, Sixth Adhyaya. He explained that hunger repeatedly afflicts human life; though it cannot be eradicated entirely, it can be alleviated temporarily. Therefore, feeding the hungry is regarded as the most sacred and auspicious form of charity.***

A person who practices charity attains the merit equivalent to the performance of yajnas and sacred rites. Such generosity transforms even adversaries into friends. In contrast, one who withholds charity finds that people do not befriend him. For those who practice charity, wealth moves in a continuous cycle, much like the revolving wheel of a temple chariot. Their riches never stagnate but return manifold through righteous circulation. In contrast, those who refuse to give, even while consuming wealth for themselves, are deemed to partake in sin, for enjoyment devoid of sharing is regarded as eating the fruits of one's own transgressions. We cannot expect everyone to be alike in the matter of charity. Even though both hands of a person appear similar and are equally formed, their strength and capacity are not the same. Likewise, each individual's ability to give differs and charity must be understood and appreciated in accordance with one's means. Charity must be offered with humility. —*In The Hindu*

NEWS SPARKLERS

'Wife-carrying' competition winners



Dorking: Wives and girlfriends clung on for dear life as their partners carried them up and down a hillside for the U.K. Wife Carrying Race, one of the country's quirkiest annual sports events.

Teemu Touvinen and Jatta Leinonen from Finland were crowned the winners at 1 minute and 45 seconds. Their prize? A barrel of local ale.

The awkward footrace in Dorking, Surrey is said to be inspired by a 19th-century Finnish legend about a gang that pillages villages and steals the women.

"You do not have to carry your own wife. It could be someone else's. Or a mate, girlfriend, boyfriend, sister or brother. They should ideally weigh less than you do" organisers said.

Robot solves Rubik's Cube in 45.3 seconds

Bristol: A pair of British brothers earned a Guinness World Records title when their robot solved a 4x4x4 Rubik's Cube in 45.3 seconds.

Matthew and Thomas Pidden, brothers who share a passion for robotics and computing, demonstrated their robot's puzzle-solving skills at the University of Bristol in May 2025 and it managed to solve a Rubik's Cube in 45.3 seconds.

Guinness World Records has now confirmed the demonstration broke the record for the fastest robot to solve a 4x4x4 puzzle cube, which was previously set at 1 minute and 18.68 seconds in 2014.

A video shows the robot using its four arms to manipulate the cube until its sides are all solid colours.

"The robot uses two cameras to scan the cube. Both cameras were blocked by physical sliding plastic shutters. These were removed by hand at the start of each record attempt," Matthew said.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Regular check-ups, adequate hydration, and good control of diabetes and blood pressure are key to preventing kidney diseases.

Centre for Renal Sciences - Manipal Hospitals, Mysuru

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Karnataka State Police Run-2026

Coorg Public School teacher, student shine

Mysuru, Mar. 12- A teacher and a student of Coorg Public School, Kodagu, won individual medals in recently held Karnataka State Police Run-2026 organised by Kodagu District Police in Madikeri recently.

While teacher C.B. Susheel won the first place in the Open Women's 5K category, student Nivaan Nanaiah secured third position in the U17 5K category.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284 feet**	Maximum **2,859 feet**
Today's level **111.44 feet**	Today's level **2,269.79 feet**	Today's level **2,829.95 feet**
Last year's level **111.26 feet**	Last year's level **2,272.24 feet**	Last year's level **2,834.84 feet**
Yesterday's level **111.53 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,269.97 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,829.99 feet**
Today's Inflow **193 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **101 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **210 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **1,122 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **1,000 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **200 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- ***Wristwatches date back centuries, the first known design is credited to Abraham-Louis Breguet, who crafted a bracelet-style timepiece in 1810 for the Queen of Naples.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Wife: *Why in all marriages girl sits on left side and boy on right side?*
Husband: *According to Profit and Loss (P&L) statement account all income is on right side and expenses are on left side."*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Thursday 12th March 2026
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Warned, then... RAZED

MCC demolishes 70 illegal street stalls under High-tension wire near Vijayanagar Water Tank Road

Street vendors collect their belongings after MCC cleared Vijayanagar high-tension park area this morning.

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (MK&BCT)- In an early morning operation, the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) carried out a clearance drive near the Vijayanagar Water Tank under MCC Zone-5 limits, removing more than 70 stalls set up by street vendors below the high-tension power line park.

The demolition was undertaken to clear area that had been encroached upon by hawkers and vendors. MCC officials, assisted by Abhaya Squad, deployed three earthmovers, demolition machinery, five tippers, four tractors and small goods vehicles to remove illegal structures. The operation began at 6 am and was led by Manjunath Reddy, Assistant Commissioner of MCC Zone-5.

In the presence of officials from Zone-5 office, more than 70 stalls were dismantled, with vendors permitted to take away their materials.

As news spread, over a hundred street vendors gathered at the spot and staged a protest, alleging that the clearance had been carried out without prior notice. Vendors blocked the vehicles of AC Manjunath Reddy and Development Officer Hitesh, leading to tense moments before Vijayanagar Police dispersed the crowd. Vendors expressed anguish, stating that they had been conducting business in the park area for nearly a decade and had received official permission to operate two years ago.

(See MCC DEMOLISHES on page 13)

LPG short supply heats up demand for induction stoves

Firewood depots see no surge yet due to lack of chimneys, hearths

A woman is seen purchasing induction stove at one of the electronic stores in city.

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (BLU,VNS,&BS)- With uncertainty looming over a possible shortage of LPG cylinder supply, residents have started purchasing induction stoves to be prepared for any such situation.

People have been visiting electronic stores across the city, making enquiries about induction stoves. The product, which was once considered a lifestyle appliance, has now become a necessity.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Krishna Mariswamy, Proprietor of Yuvaraja Home Appliances, said, "The sales of induction stoves have increased over the past three to four days. Earlier, we used to sell around 10-15 stoves on average every month, but with news about a possible shortage of LPG cylinders doing the rounds, we have sold about 20-25 stoves in the past 3 to 4 days."

(See DEMAND on page 13)

Intl. Women's Day Special...

To commemorate International Women's Day-2026 and to celebrate women from different fields, *Star of Mysore* is publishing special interviews and articles this month. Today *SOM* features Dr. Divya Muddappa, who has spent nearly three decades studying and protecting the rainforests of the Western Ghats. —**Ed**

[Turn to page 8]

NEWS BRIEFS

CM to tour district tomorrow

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will undertake a one-day tour of Mysuru district tomorrow (Mar. 13). Siddaramaiah will land at Varakodu helipad in Varuna Hobli by a special flight at 11 am and take part in Varakodu Sri Beereshwaraswami temple 'Samprokshana', Punar Pratishtapane, Kumbhabhisheka and other rituals. Later, he will chair a meeting of district level officials, following which he will fly back to Bengaluru from the Helipad at 2 pm, according to a press release.

Medical camp at JSS Hospital

JSS Ayurveda Hospital, Lalithadripura Road, Mysuru, is conducting a camp for anal fissure and piles from Mar. 11 to 18 from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. For details, contact Ph: 0821-2548231 or Mob: 96635-91100.

New Acting Director for EMRC

Dr. Ghanta Ravikumar, a senior programme producer of University of Mysore's EMRC (The Educational Multimedia Research Centre) has been appointed as the new Acting Director of EMRC at Manasagangothri, according to a press release.

Specially abled boy goes missing

Shashank

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (KS)- A 17-year-old specially abled boy, who left his house on Feb. 26, saying that he was going to the school, has since gone missing. The missing boy is Shashank, son of Shankar Lamani and Saroja Lamani couple and a resident of Janata Nagar in city.

Shashank is 4 ft. tall, normal built, oily red complexioned, has burn marks on his body, has hearing and speech disabilities and speaks Kannada. He was wearing a dark blue pants and blue shirt at the time of going missing.

Anybody having information about missing boy may contact Saraswathipuram Police on Ph: 0821-2418323 or Police Control Room on Ph: 0821-2418339.

Waste Dumping Spot...

A stretch of road from Netaji Nagar to ORR junction cries for attention

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (SPN&BS)- The main road that connects Netaji Nagar and Outer-ring Road (ORR) in the city, has turned into a waste dumping spot. The stretch of road near the burial ground, is littered with waste on the either side, much to the inconvenience of nearby residents.

The used pillows, beds, blankets, plastic carry bags and other types of waste have been disposed here. Any pranks to set fire to these wastes, may turn the stretch smoky, which is considered hazardous to health, for the harmful particles emitted through billowing smoke. The inhaling of smoke may choke the vulnerable lot, with the nearby residential areas like-Police Layout and Netaji Nagar, having many serving and retired Police personnel and teachers among others.

If any fire mishaps are not controlled in time, they may engulf, fast pervading the boundaries. As the Chamundi Hill, surrounded by thick vegetation, is located nearby, the forest cover encompassing the hill, may face threat, leading to destruction of natural resources.

Now, with several hospitals including JSS Ayurveda Hospital located in the vicinity, the ailing patients will be forced to bear the brunt. Making the situation worse, vested interests are dumping the waste at lake attacked to Netaji Nagar and Thippayyanakere, in a covert manner. If the authorities continue to turn a blind eye the concerned residents have warned of staging aggressive stir, according to social activist Lohit.

Regional Commr. pays surprise visit to Mysuru Taluk office

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (MK&VNS)- Regional Commissioner, Mysuru Division, Nitesh Patil paid a surprise visit to Mysuru Taluk Office at Mini Vidhana Soudha in Nazarbad yesterday.

During his visit, the Regional Commissioner Nitesh Patil inspected the files and works allotted to officers and staff members.

Later, RC Patil held a meeting with officials and staff members, during which he reviewed the progress of applications related to podi, e-khata, title deeds, RRT correction, e-swathu among others.

He also instructed the officials to ensure that all public grievances were resolved on time. Tahsildar Mahesh and other officials were present on the occasion.

Rider killed in goods vehicle accident

Prabhakar

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (PM&KS) - A two-wheeler rider was killed on the spot when a goods vehicle hit the bike he was riding near Gurukarpura Gate on Mysuru-T. Narasipur Road yesterday.

The deceased has been identified as S. Prabhakar alias Ningaraju (41), a resident of S. Megadahalli village in T. Narasipur taluk, who was working as a security guard at Mall of Mysore, M.G. Road in Mysuru city.

Daily Prabhakar used to commute from his village to the city on his mobike for work.

On Tuesday, Prabhakar was riding his bike (KA-12-H-2928) from his village to Mysuru. When he was proceeding near Gurukarpura Gate, a speeding goods vehicle (KA-07-C-2256) hit his bike from behind. Prabhakar fell on the road and the goods vehicle ran over him killing him on the spot.

Acting on the complaint from deceased Prabhakar's father Siddanayaka, Varuna Police have registered a case.

Hundi money, gold mangalya stolen from temple

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (MK&KS)- Thieves who broke into Sri Chamundeshwari Temple at Mahadeshwara Layout in Vijayanagar Railway Layout here and made away with amount collected in hundi and gold mangalya from the temple.

Police said that the thieves broke open the hundi, stole the cash offered by the devotees and four-gram gold mangalya.

Vijayanagar Police, who have registered a case, are investigating.

Obituary

Journalist K.J. Kumar

Mysuru, Mar. 12- K.J. Kumar (74), a senior journalist and a resident of Yadavagiri, passed away following a heart attack at a private hospital in city yesterday.

He leaves behind his wife Usha, daughter Sunaya Shetty, sister former Corporator Pramila Prakash and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at the foot of Chamundi Hill this afternoon.

Born on Nov. 6, 1952 to Raghuram Shetty and Sharada at Korandara Palya in Udupi district, Kumar not only served as the newspaper distributor but also served as a journalist for about 56 years.

He began his stint as a journalist for 'Vijaya' and later became its printer and publisher. As a cinema journalist, he had served for 'Sudha' 'Roopathaara' and 'Vijaya' monthly magazines. In 1993, he served as Mysuru Correspondent for 'Udayavani.' He later served as a cinema journalist for 'Hosa Digantha.'

Kumar had also opened 'Kuteera Mane,' a vegetarian restaurant at Saraswathipuram.

Sahukar Shivashankar

Sahukar Shivashankar (97), a resident of Agrahara, near K.R. Police Station, passed away yesterday in city.

He leaves behind one son, two daughters, daughter-in-law, sons-in-law and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at Veerashaiva Burial Grounds in Vidyaranyapuram this noon.

Mahadeva

Nanjangud: Mahadeva (55), Head Master at Alaganchipura Higher Primary School and a resident of Bokkalli village in the taluk, passed away following a heart attack yesterday. He leaves behind his wife and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at Bokkalli village this afternoon.

VOICE OF THE READER

Solve traffic chaos at Dattagalli KEB Junction

Sir,

I would like to draw the attention of the Mysuru City Traffic Police and the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) to several issues concerning the recently installed traffic signal at the KEB Junction in Dattagalli.

To begin with, multiple roads converge at this junction, including traffic from arterial roads, making the area highly congested during peak hours.

Traffic movement from Shani Temple Road and the left turn from Bogadi Ring Road is particularly chaotic. Vehicles from these roads merge directly into the main traffic flow without adequate regulation, creating confusion and leaving very little time for motorists already on the road to manoeuvre safely.

The dedicated cycle lane created at the junction also appears to be underutilised. Instead of serving cyclists, it is often occupied by stray dogs or used by vendors to display their wares. So far, I have not seen any cyclists using this lane. Another concern is the presence of vegetable vendors and small eateries on both sides of the road. In addition, cars and two-wheelers are frequently parked haphazardly along the stretch. This significantly reduces the available road space and combined with the cycle lane, leaves hardly enough room for two cars to pass each other comfortably.

There is also a bus stop located right at the point where vehicles merge, which further aggravates congestion and creates a potential safety hazard.

Vehicles heading towards the Dattagalli side often face another problem. Many two-wheelers and cars continue to move even when their signal is red, showing little regard for traffic rules. Such violations should be strictly enforced and offenders penalised.

Further, vehicles coming from the Dattagalli side are frequently seen driving on the wrong side of the road and joining the ongoing traffic, which is an open invitation for accidents.

At the newly installed signal near Nethaji Circle, the allotted time for vehicles to cross is only about 10 seconds. Within this brief interval, at least five cars, along with several two-wheelers, attempt to pass through, which is clearly insufficient.

These issues suggest that the traffic arrangements may not have been fully assessed before implementation. Traffic volume in this area is quite heavy, as commuters from R.T. Nagar, University Layout, Somanathanagar and several new localities use this road regularly.

Given these conditions, it is only reasonable that road users are able to travel safely and in a disciplined manner.

I request the authorities to review the shortcomings highlighted above and take corrective measures at the earliest, rather than waiting for accidents to occur before acting.

—Vinoda Ramachandra

Mysuru 8.3.2026

Medical screening for Haj pilgrims

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (KS)- Medical screening for Haj pilgrims will be conducted from 9.30 am to 4 pm on Mar. 13, 14, 16 and 17 at the District Hospital on KRS Road in city and vaccination for eligible pilgrims will begin after Eid-e-Ramzan and will be completed before Mar. 28.

Pilgrims have been instructed to complete their medical screening on the above dates, as it is mandatory to upload the details on the HPHIS portal.

Haj pilgrims should carry their previous medical certificate, investigation reports and medical health card.

For details, contact Nodal Officer Dr. Mohammed Shiraz Ahmed on Mob: 99001-43409 or Mohammed Mumtaz Ahmed on Mob: 97417-89000.

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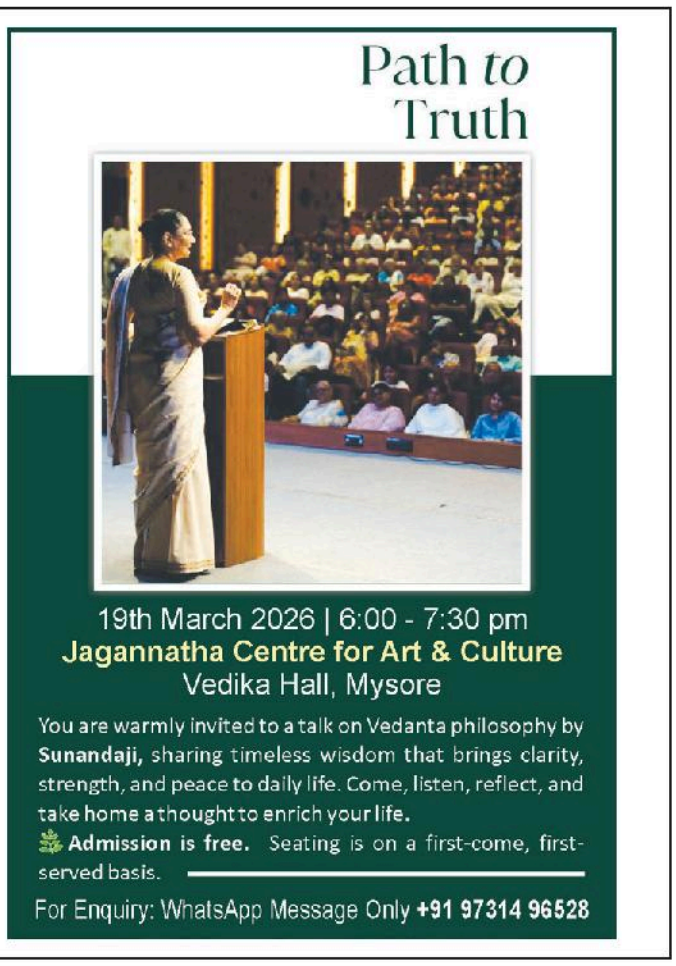
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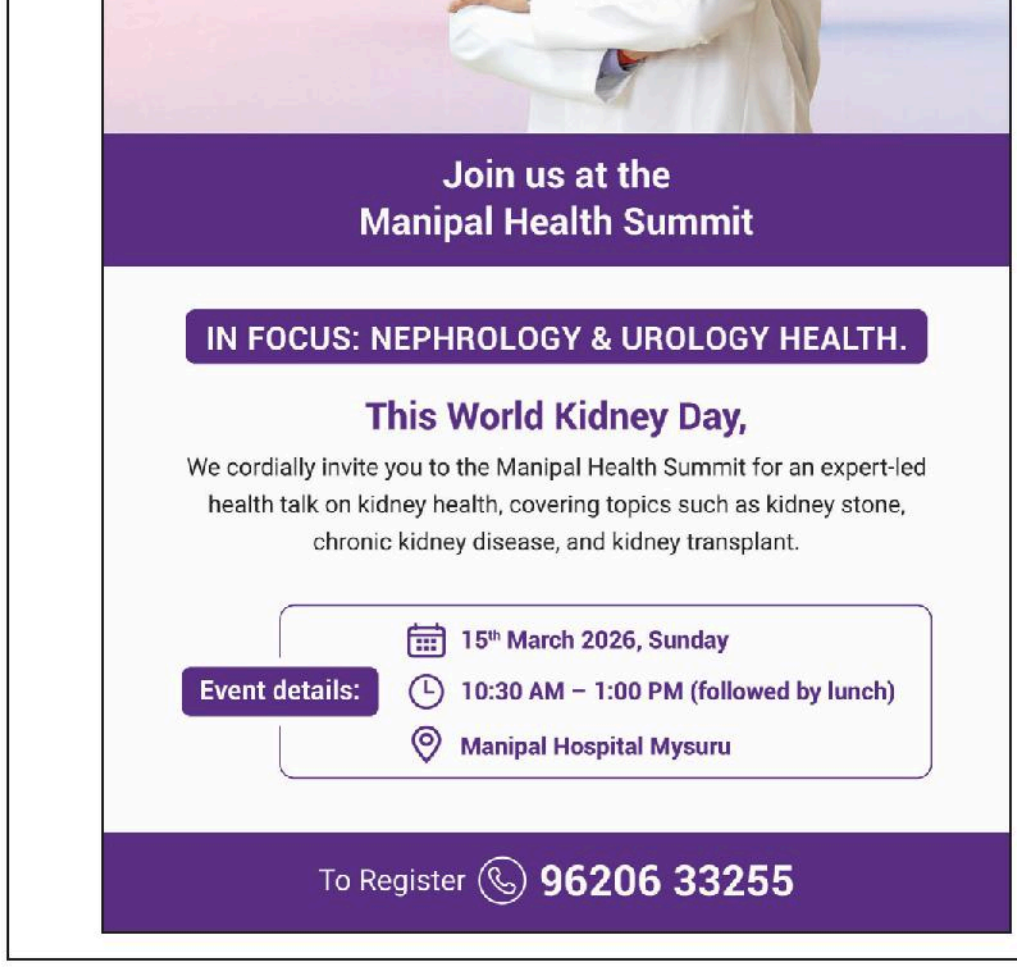
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FLEETING THOUGHTS

INDIA must stop... BOWING to WASHINGTON

Narendra Modi
Indian Prime Minister

Donald Trump
United States President

Mikhail Mishustin
Russian Prime Minister

By B.S. Ajaikumar

Long before colonial rule bent this country to foreign will, India stood tall as one of the world's great economic and civilisational powers. The English explorer William Dampier described India as a vast manufacturing hub where "nearly every kind of product known to the civilized world had long been produced."

We were once at the forefront of global commerce, a land whose goods travelled across continents through thriving trade networks. Then came colonial rule. British domination reduced a proud civilisation into a supplier of raw materials and a consumer of foreign goods, leaving behind a legacy of economic and psychological subservience.

After independence, India sought to reclaim its autonomy. Under Jawaharlal Nehru, it helped form the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961, gathering newly independent nations to chart a path free from both American and Soviet influence. *Strategic autonomy was not merely a slogan; it was a statement of dignity.*

Yet today that confidence appears to be fading. It is deeply troubling to witness India's progressive submission to American geopolitical dictates. We seem to bow our heads at the first hint of economic pressure from Washington.

When the United States threatened sweeping tariffs and demanded India curtail purchases of Russian oil, New Delhi capitulated without so much as a formal protest. When a 30-day "grace period" was later offered allowing India to continue buying unsanctioned Russian oil already on the water, Indian officials responded with embarrassing gratitude. This is not diplomacy. This is subservience dressed in diplomatic clothing.

What we are witnessing resembles a modern form of neocolonialism. In the past, colonial power arrived through gunboats and garrisons. Today it comes through tariffs, financial pressure and the leverage of global institutions dominated by the West.

Earlier, our colonial masters issued directives from London. Today, the signals arrive from Washington. The geography has changed. The humiliation has not.

This is particularly troubling for a country that imports nearly 90 percent of its oil and saved an estimated $10-15 billion annually by purchasing discounted Russian supplies after the Ukraine war.

When Russia invaded Ukraine, sweeping sanctions followed swiftly; yet when the United States or Israel use force in the Middle East, the global appetite for similar punitive measures appears far less certain — raising uncomfortable questions about whether international rules are applied equally.

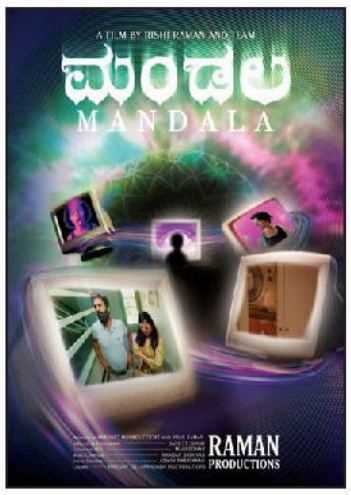
If buying Russian oil at a steep discount makes undeniable business sense for a country where millions still live in poverty, why should that policy be abandoned the moment an American President frowns?

Meanwhile, the US-India trade relationship — valued at over $190 billion — actually runs in India's favour. In other words, India has leverage. It simply chooses not to use it. A confident nation would diversify its trade, strengthen ties with Europe and the Global South, and protect its strategic interests without apology. China does this without hesitation. India should too.

A civilisation that once led global commerce should not behave as though its policies require approval from Washington. A nation of 1.4 billion people deserves leadership that remembers its history — and its pride. The question before us is simple: will India act like a sovereign power again or continue to nod obediently whenever a superpower clears its throat?

Dr. B.S. Ajaikumar is the Chairman of Bharat Hospital and Institute of Oncology, Mysuru, Founder and Executive Chairman of HCG Cancer Centres. He is the author of the book 'Excellence Has No Borders: How A Doctorpreneur Created A World-Class Cancer Hospital Chain.'

Mysuru Directors' *Mandala* & *I See You* screening at DRC



Rishi Raman

Minchu Joshi

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (VNS)- Screening of short films 'Mandala' and 'I See You' directed by Mysureans Rishi Raman and Minchu Joshi, respectively will be screened at DRC Cinemas on **Mar. 15 between 11 am and 12 noon.**

The screening will be done under a unique format BY/2 SHORT FILMS where two short films will be screened in one single screen. Both the short films have already generated considerable curiosity among local cinema audiences.

Those interested to watch can do so for free by registering their names on **WhatsApp number: 91876-71658.**

Entry will be based on first-come-first-serve basis.

About the short films

Rishi Raman's *Mandala,* shot in Berlin, is a visually striking psychedelic thriller that dives into fractured realities and psychological tension.

Meanwhile, Minchu Joshi's *I See You*, shot in Mumbai and Bengaluru, is a sensitive coming-of-age drama that explores vulnerability, emotional connection and the subtle moments in which people feel truly seen.

Together, the films highlight the creative range of two emerging filmmakers who are increasingly gaining attention for their independent work.

Both Raman and Joshi represent a new generation of creators from Mysuru and Bengaluru who are taking on multiple roles — writing, directing, acting and producing their own films — to bring original stories to life outside the traditional studio system.

Star Pups

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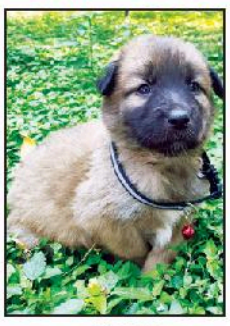

Mango

Chikoo

Toffee

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (KS)- Three Indian desi pups (two male and one female) named Mango, Chikoo and Toffee, all one year and five months old, which are de-wormed and vaccinated, are up for adoption at People For Animals (PFA), Mysuru.

All the three puppies are healthy, playful and ready to be adopted. PFA has urged the public to adopt the puppies and consider adoption as a way to address the growing crisis of abandoned and homeless dogs. For details, contact PFA on Ph: 0821-2598213 or Mob: 98456-54429 or e-mail: *pfamysore@gmail.com*

Sarvothama Seva Awards presented

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (GA&BS)- Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy has said, the change in prevailing situation has increased the challenges faced in Government jobs, which can be aptly addressed by upgrading skills for showing accuracy in handling responsibilities.

He was speaking after inaugurating Sarvothama Seva Award presentation ceremony, organised by the District Administration in association with Mysuru District Government Employees Association at Kiru Rangamandira at Kalamandira premises in the city yesterday. The award carries citation and purse of Rs. 25,000 each.

Recipients of Sarvothama Seva Award, seen along with Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer S. Ukesh Kumar and other dignitaries, at Kiru Rangamandira at Kalamandira premises in the city yesterday.

DC Reddy said, in private sector, the best performing employees are feted with bonus and other perks. While the Government employees are rewarded with Sarvothama Seva Award.

Zilla Panchayat CEO S. Ukesh Kumar said that employees should be recognised for their honesty and work ethic while Mysuru District President of Government Employees Association Dr. C.P. Arunkumar said, such awards encourage Government employees to excel at their work.

This tradition of rewarding Government employees with Civilian Service Award began in the year 2006, but since 2021 it comes along with a cash reward of Rs. 25,000.

Recipients of Sarvothama Award are: B.J. Gururaj, Naziya Sultana, N. Yashoda, N.M. Rathi, Dr. S. Chidambara, S.M. Madhusudhan, Kumuda Sharat, Chandrashekar and Roopa Rudresh.

Panic LPG bookings slow down servers

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (MTY & BCT)- A surge in phone calls from customers trying to book domestic LPG cylinders has crippled the centralised servers of oil and gas companies, distributors said, attributing the disruption to panic bookings.

Consumers attempting to book cylinders through their mobile phones reported being unable to connect to the booking servers, receiving continuous busy tones or experiencing abrupt call disconnections.

Officials from Government-owned oil marketing companies said the systems were not designed to handle such a massive volume of calls. "The servers have turned slow and unresponsive due to the unprecedented surge in call traffic," they explained.

Meanwhile, the Centre has imposed a 25-day gap between refill bookings for domestic LPG cylinders. Although some companies allow bookings through mobile applications, a majority of consumers still depend on phone calls.

Stocks for two days

Amid the shortage of commercial LPG cylinders, a few private suppliers have begun supplying gas at significantly higher prices. However, representatives of the hotel industry said the situation was not yet critical. "Hotels still have stocks that can last for another two days," they said. However, many tea stalls and fast-food outlets in Mysuru have reportedly shut operations due to the unavailability of cylinders.

Mysore Hotel Owners Association President C. Narayanagowda said oil companies have been instructed to supply only half the usual number of commercial cylinders. He also cautioned that domestic LPG cylinders must not be used for commercial purposes under any circumstances.

Members have been advised to explore alternative fuel options such as firewood stoves, briquettes or electric stoves, while keeping their menu simple and operation time short.

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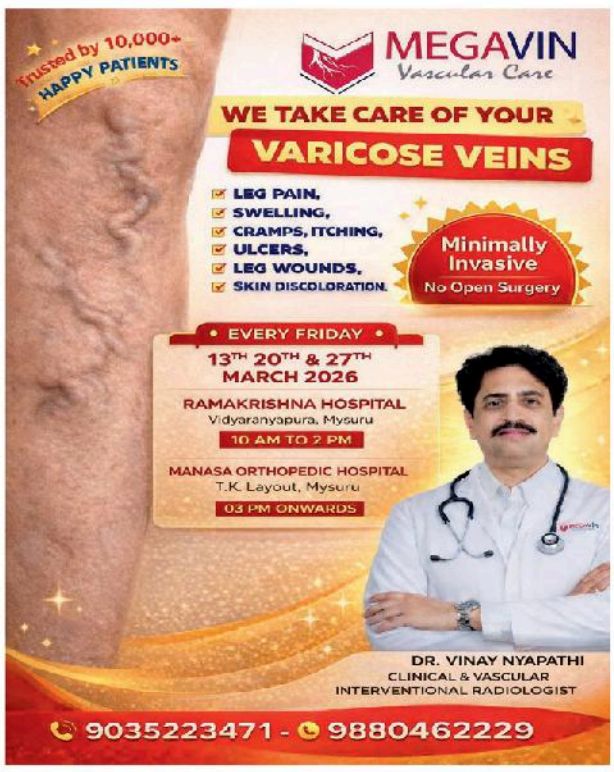

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SPECIAL...

From studying hornbills to restoring degraded rainforests, tropical ecologist Dr. Divya Muddappa has dedicated nearly three decades to conservation in the Western Ghats...

Rooted in... Rainforests

Dr. Divya Mudappa (Ballachanda), Senior Scientist at the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, has spent nearly three decades studying and protecting the rainforests of the Western Ghats. Her work in tropical ecology spans areas such as restoration ecology, conservation biology and plant-animal interactions, including seed dispersal and frugivory.

She began her research journey with the Malabar Grey Hornbill during her Master's at the Salim Ali School of Ecology, Pondicherry University and later spent years studying hornbills across the Western Ghats, tracking their nesting patterns, distribution and the effects of rainforest fragmentation.

In a conversation with *Star of Mysore,* she says while her work in the forests has been deeply rewarding, the real challenge lies in convincing society, from the general public to policymakers, about urgency of conservation, especially when it comes into conflict with development and infrastructure projects. —Ed

By B.C. Thimmaiah

SOM: What first sparked your interest in tropical ecology? Was there a moment when you knew forests would become your life's work?

Dr. Divya Muddappa: That's an interesting question because we rarely look back and think about where it all began. For me, the turning point was a visit to Topslip in the Anaimalai Tiger Reserve, where one of my seniors was working. She took me on a walk into the forest.

It was my first time in a dense evergreen rainforest. Hearing the sounds of animals, seeing so many birds, especially hornbills, and standing among those towering trees was simply fascinating. It captured my imagination.

At the time, I was doing my Master's and trying to decide on a topic for my dissertation. That visit eventually led me to begin my work on hornbills. Looking back, that was the moment my interest in rainforests truly began.

SOM: Can you describe your current field of work?

Dr. Divya: My work focuses on protecting and restoring tropical forests, particularly in the Western Ghats. A large part of it involves studying carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation in landscapes already shaped by human activity.

I'm also involved in conserving globally threatened tree species through ecological restoration, especially in fragmented plantation landscapes. Another important aspect of our work is restoring degraded rainforests and abandoned plantations and monitoring how these ecosystems recover over time.

SOM: What was your specialisation in your dissertation?

Dr. Divya: I did my Master's in Ecology and Environmental Science at Pondicherry University. For my dissertation, I studied the Malabar Grey Hornbill, a species endemic to the Western Ghats.

However, my work is not limited to hornbills. My broader area of interest is tropical forest ecology, particularly plant-animal interactions such as seed dispersal and frugivory. Hornbills, for instance, are important frugivores that play a key role in dispersing seeds across forests.

I later went on to study the brown palm civet, another endemic species of the Western Ghats, which is also largely frugivorous. My research looks at how different species interact with forests and contribute to ecosystem processes.

Currently, my partner, our team and I are working on restoring rainforests in fragmented landscapes in the Anaimalai region of the Western Ghats.

SOM: You've spent years working in remote rainforests. Looking back, what have been some of the toughest challenges you've faced in the field?

Dr. Divya: Personally, working in the rainforests of the Western Ghats has never felt like a challenge. I come from Coorg, so being in forests and observing plants and animals is something I deeply enjoy. The bigger challenge lies in conservation itself. One of the hardest tasks is convincing people that protecting nature is just as important as protecting our own future.

There are also larger pressures such as rapid development, habitat loss and the climate crisis. These make conservation far more complex. Ultimately, the challenge is helping people rethink their relationship with nature. Not seeing it merely as something to exploit, but as something we must learn to live alongside and care for.

SOM: Field research can be physically and emotionally demanding and unpredictable. Are institutions in India doing enough to make field science safer and more supportive for women?

Dr. Divya: Field research can certainly be demanding, perhaps more emotionally than physically, especially when you are young and starting out. But passion and the desire to conserve these ecosystems keep you going.

When I began working in this field, society was already quite gender-biased. But we were so driven by our interests that we rarely stopped to think about whether formal support systems existed. We simply carried on with our work. I'm happy to say that things have improved in recent years. Thanks to greater awareness and better policies, many institutions now have systems that offer support and protection. In many cases, these are gender-neutral policies that safeguard everyone.

That said, we still have a long way to go. Many challenges women face come not from institutions but from broader social attitudes. Addressing those requires bigger behavioural and cultural change.

SOM: From when you began your career to where you are today, how do you see the journey of women in Indian wildlife science?

Dr. Divya: The journey has been encouraging. Compared to many other scientific fields, wildlife science has generally been more welcoming to women. Even when I started, women were working in the field, perhaps not many, but certainly some.

We were also fortunate to have strong role models. Some of my professors were women who influenced my work greatly and there were inspiring women scientists globally as well.

> **"You don't necessarily have to make it your career to contribute to conservation. You could be a lawyer, doctor or engineer and still make a meaningful difference through the choices you make and the way you live. What matters is having a genuine connection with nature. That connection can exist whether you are a professional in the field or simply someone who loves and respects the natural world."**

Today, it is also encouraging to see more women officers in the Forest Department, something that was far less common earlier. The bigger challenge is often whether women are able to continue their careers over the long term.

SOM: Wildlife biology requires patience and long-term commitment. Do women bring a different perspective to conservation work?

Dr. Divya: We are definitely seeing more young women entering the field today. In many academic programmes, the numbers are almost evenly split between women and men. I do think women bring a different perspective to conservation work. It is not necessarily better or worse. Just different, and that diversity is valuable. People observe and interpret nature in different ways.

Some studies suggest that women tend to make very detailed behavioural observations, particularly when studying social animals such as primates or elephants. Qualities like sensitivity, empathy and openness can shape how we observe and understand wildlife. In my experience, women may also be less driven by competition in a negative sense and more inclined towards collaboration, which is very important in conservation work.

SOM: What do you tell young women who are passionate about ecology but unsure about taking it up as a career?

Dr. Divya: Ecology and wildlife conservation are fields where the line between a hobby and a career can sometimes be very thin. For many people, it begins as a hobby and gradually becomes a profession.

But I often say that you don't necessarily have to make it your career to contribute to conservation. You could be a lawyer, doctor or engineer and still make a meaningful difference through the choices you make and the way you live.

What matters most is having a genuine connection with nature. That connection can exist whether you are a professional in the field or simply someone who loves and respects the natural world.

SOM: On International Women's Day, how do you define leadership in science and conservation, especially in the Indian context, where some fields are still viewed through a gender lens?

Dr. Divya: Leadership, in my view, is not about gender. It is about the qualities a person brings to the field. Traits such as empathy, sensitivity, determination, patience and the ability to collaborate with the team or group are essential for good leadership.

These qualities are not limited to any one gender. Rather than asking whether men or women make better leaders, the real question is whether a person possesses the qualities needed to lead effectively.

Ultimately, I hope more people recognise the importance of protecting nature and maintaining a clean and healthy environment. Because our own survival depends on it. I also hope more people come together to protect the natural ecosystems we still have left.

> **"One of the hardest tasks is convincing people that protecting nature is just as important as protecting our own future. There are also larger pressures such as rapid development, habitat loss and the climate crisis. These make conservation far more complex. Ultimately, the challenge is helping people rethink their relationship with nature."**

DECODING MYTHOLOGY

Dr. Devdutt Pattanaik - Author, Speaker, Illustrator, Mythologist

The Sage Under the Berry Tree

The name Badrinath carries a quiet ecological memory. Badri means the berry (Ziziphus mauritiana) or jujube tree. Nath means lord. Badrinath is the lord who dwells among berry trees. Myth explains this landscape by saying that when Vishnu meditated in the twin form of Nara and Narayana, the goddess Lakshmi transformed herself into a berry tree to shelter him from the cold and to nourish him.

Food, shade and devotion merge, turning vegetation into theology. The shrine that emerges is not merely a temple but a reminder that divinity survives through sustenance.

The physical structure of Badrinath evokes ambiguity. It does not resemble a classical Hindu temple but looks closer to a Buddhist vihara.

Inside the sanctum are three figures: Nara, Narayana and Uddhava. The Bhagavata Purana identifies Nara with Arjuna, Narayana with Krishna and Uddhava as their companion and confidant.

But there are competing claims. Many Jains argue that the images are originally Jain icons later appropriated by Brahmin priests. Significantly, Adinath or the first Jain Tirthankar of this era is linked both with the banyan tree as well as the evergreen Rayan berry tree (Manilkara hexandra).

Like Shiva, he is linked to the bull. Shiva too is offered ber fruit on Shiv-ratri. Verification is difficult because the images are heavily covered with flowers, ornaments and sandal paste, making iconographic study nearly impossible. What is clear, however, is that the region was never culturally isolated.

Garhwal lay on an important trade route connecting the plains of India to Tibet. Merchants, monks and pilgrims passed through Badrinath, carrying goods as well as ideas. Buddhist presence along Himalayan trade routes is well documented and the vihara-like architecture reflects this.

Jain traders too were active across north India and the western Himalayas. Badrinath, thus, functioned as a trading shrine, sustained by movement rather than settlement.

Later political shifts changed these patterns. As trade routes altered, older Buddhist and Jain institutions lost patronage and declined. Local Garhwal kings, aligned with emerging Buddha-Hindu polities, rebuilt or repurposed shrines.

Tradition credits figures like Shankaracharya and later Ramanujacharya with rediscovering and re-establishing Badrinath. These stories are less about founding new temples and more about reinterpreting older sacred spaces to suit changing religious ecologies.

The central symbol that ties these traditions together is the berry tree, linked to Shiva, Vishnu and Rishab-devji. Berry trees are also found near Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) of Amritsar. Sages sat under the shade of this tree. It is said to be Dukh Bhanjani or that which removes all suffering, as it provides the basic needs that a hermit needs — shade and food.

The berry tree enabled sages to survive in harsh conditions. The berry tree acknowledges the importance of food without which no life survives. Even the hermit, who gives up the world, needs food to survive.

Berries are linked to Ram, Krishna, to the wandering hermits of India. It is the offering of tribal people to their gods and goddesses. It is the food of the traveller, the trader, that which survives in the harshest of conditions.

Badrinath is a layered site where Hindu, Buddhist and Jain memories overlap, shaped by trade, geography and changing patronage. When modern politics turns such shrines into rigid property markers, it flattens this complexity. The berry tree reminds us that sacred spaces grow through sharing, not possession.

devdutt@devdutt.com

'Include Mysuru in Urban Economic Zone scheme'

MP Yaduveer meets Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for Mysuru's inclusion

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (BCT)- Mysuru may soon receive a major development boost as the Union Government is considering the city for inclusion in the Urban Economic Zone (UEZ) initiative aimed at strengthening economically significant urban centres.

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi yesterday and urged her to include Mysuru in UEZ scheme announced in the Union Budget.

Yaduveer highlighted that Mysuru, which enjoys global recognition for its rich heritage and cultural significance, deserves to be part of the initiative to strengthen its growth and development further.

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Wadiyar submitting memorandum to Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi yesterday.

According to Yaduveer, the Finance Minister assured him that steps would be taken to consider the proposal. Inclusion in the UEZ scheme would pave the way for comprehensive development projects in areas such as infrastructure, environment and public services, while safeguarding the city's heritage and ecological character.

He also said, consultations would be held with experts, public representatives and citizens to gather suggestions and formulate suitable development plans for the city. Under the UEZ initiative, cities with a population of over five lakh, particularly tier-2 and tier-3 urban centres, are being prioritised for modern infrastructure upgrades.

Expressing optimism after the meeting, Yaduveer said, the Finance Minister had responded positively to the repeated requests made for Mysuru's inclusion. "This initiative will unlock innovation and opportunities. Let us work together, beyond party lines, to make Mysuru globally acclaimed," he said.

What is UEZ project?

The **Urban Economic Zone (UEZ)** project aims to accelerate urban growth across emerging cities. Cities such as Bengaluru, Surat, Varanasi, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Puri, Cuttack, Coimbatore, Erode and Tiruppur have already been included under the scheme.

Each zone is expected to receive an annual grant of Rs. 5,000 crore, to be implemented through public-private partnerships. The Centre also plans to establish Regional Medical Hubs as part of the broader development framework.

Stoppage of commercial gas supply

Mysuru industrial units under strain

Many industries reduce employee work shifts from three to two

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (PM&BCT)- A shortage of commercial LPG cylinders has pushed several industrial units in Mysuru to the brink of closure, raising concerns over the livelihood of workers employed in these factories.

Industries dependent on heating processes, including carton box manufacturing, packaging, pharmaceuticals, snack production and fabrication, have been among the worst affected as gas supplies have slowed drastically.

Industrial units said many factories may be forced to suspend operations within a day or two if supplies are not restored.

Food processing units producing snacks, biscuits and chips also depend heavily on commercial LPG for frying and cooking. Similarly, pharmaceutical companies that prepare syrups require large vessels to heat medicinal solutions using gas.

Speaking to Star of Mysore, K. B. Lingaraju, President of the Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), said welding units, tungsten wire factories and several other industries depend heavily on LPG cylinders.

Operation till stock availability

"Many industries in the Hebbal Industrial Area and other industrial areas of Mysuru rely on gas cylinders for the production and processing of raw materials. Several units have reduced operations from three shifts to just two due to the shortage. If the situation continues for another two days, factories may be forced to shut down," he warned.

General Secretary of Mysuru Industries Association (MIA) Suresh Kumar Jain said some industries depend entirely on commercial cylinders and are already facing difficulties.

"Currently, work is continuing with the stock available. Once those cylinders are exhausted, the crisis will deepen," he said, adding that factory canteens, which use commercial cylinders to prepare meals for workers, have also been affected.

Mehul J. Patel, State President of the LPG Distributors Association and owner of Amardeep Gas Agency, confirmed that supplies were halted from Monday.

"Industries, hotels, marriage halls and even gas crematoria are facing difficulties. This is a nationwide situation. However, domestic cylinders are still being supplied to hospitals, hostels and educational institutions, so they are not affected," he said.

Domestic LPG supply stable, says Food Department JD

Commercial LPG cylinders sold in black market for Rs. 4,000 per unit

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (PM&BCT)- Even as the supply of commercial LPG cylinders has been severely disrupted in Mysuru, distribution of domestic LPG cylinders remains unaffected, according to Manteswamy, Joint Director (JD) of the Food and Civil Supplies Department.

Clarifying the situation, Manteswamy said cylinders booked by households are being delivered within 25 days and there has been no disruption in supply.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, he said Government hospitals and hostels are receiving cooking gas cylinders without delay.

A meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner was held with representatives from Indian Oil Corporation and other LPG companies, during which officials confirmed that domestic LPG supply across the district remains stable.

He reiterated that domestic consumers will not face any shortage as companies have assured timely delivery within the stipulated period.

Black market sale

Meanwhile, reports have surfaced about commercial LPG cylinders being sold illegally in the black market for as much as Rs. 4,000 per unit.

Mehul J. Patel, State President of the LPG Distributors Association of India and owner of Amardeep Gas Agency, has urged the Food and Civil Supplies Department to take strict action against such practices.

Patel alleged that domestic LPG cylinders are being illegally refilled into commercial cylinders and sold at exorbitant rates.

"No one should purchase cylinders from the black market. The Government will soon intervene and until then, people must remain patient," he appealed.

He added that such illegal trade not only burdens industries and businesses but also undermines public trust in the LPG supply system, calling for immediate enforcement to curb the malpractice.

Prioritise Mid-day Meal

The Government has directed all Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) to ensure an uninterrupted supply of LPG cylinders for the preparation of meals under the PM Poshan Shakti Nirman (Mid-day Meal Scheme).

The Mid-day Meal programme, a flagship initiative of the Government, requires continuous fuel support for cooking meals in schools until the end of the current academic year on April 10, 2026. District authorities have been instructed to treat LPG supply for schools as an essential commodity and issue clear directions to all distributors to prioritise cylinder deliveries to educational institutions.

No CNG shortage but auto gas prices surge

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (PM&BCT)- Mysuru has not faced any shortage of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) used for vehicles despite concerns over fuel supply disruptions. CNG stations in the city, including Agni Gas, Propel Gas, Think Gas and AG&P Pratham, reported that supplies remain steady. Fuel continues to be delivered on schedule, with some outlets maintaining advance bookings to ensure adequate stock.

However, auto gas prices have risen sharply, with a sudden increase of Rs. 10 per kg within just four days. The hike has triggered frustration among auto drivers, many of whom expressed concern over rising operating costs.

Naveen, Manager of Propel Gas, said the price earlier stood at Rs. 53.76 per kg but has now increased to Rs. 63.76 due to international supply disruptions.

"We are receiving gas at the same higher rate and passing it on to consumers. Some people misunderstand the situation, while others accept it," he said.

Sanjeeth Kumar Suman, Regional Manager of Think Gas, clarified that their CNG supply remains unaffected. "Prices have even dropped slightly from Rs. 87 to Rs. 85. The war has not impacted our supply chain. Future steps will depend on decisions taken by the Union Government," he said.

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JSS AHER launches Corticosteroid Stewardship Initiative

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (KS) - An initiative aimed at promoting safe and rational use of corticosteroids in rheumatological clinical practice was launched during the Academic Council meeting held at JSS Medical College recently, with the release of CorticoCare Card and the 'Steroid Prescribing Guidelines for the Department of Rheumatology - 2026.'

The initiative forms a part of the Ph.D research titled 'Corticosteroid Stewardship in a Tertiary Care Hospital in India,' by Dr. Mohammed Daiyaan Khan, a Ph.D Scholar, Department of Clinical Pharmacy at JSS College of Pharmacy.

As part of the project, a multidisciplinary Rheumatology Corticosteroid Stewardship Committee (RCSC) was constituted to promote the safe, rational and evidence-based use of corticosteroids. Under this initiative, the CorticoCare Card, a patient-held steroid alert card and the Steroid Prescribing Guidelines for the Department of Rheumatology - 2026 were developed.

The CorticoCare Card is designed to improve communication between patients and healthcare providers regarding ongoing steroid therapy. It incorporates a colour-coded risk identification system to quickly indicate the patient's steroid risk status and includes a QR code linking to digital educational information.

This initiative was carried out in collaboration with the Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology and the Department of Clinical Pharmacy, JSS Hospital, Mysuru.

Principal of JSS College of Pharmacy Dr. T. M. Pramod Kumar, Consultants at Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology at JSS Hospital Dr. B.N. Shiv Prasad and Dr. Mahabaleshwar Mamadapur, members of the Rheumatology Corticosteroid Stewardship Committee Dr. Mruthyunjaya, Dr. Ajay Hanumanthu, G. Smitha, Dr. Soubham Iboyaima Singh, Dr. K.N. Sangeetha, Ajit Nair, Dean (Research) Dr. Prashanth Vishwanath, Professor and Head of the Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology Dr. Subramanian R, Director of JSS Hospital Dr. C.P. Madhu, JSS AHER Registrar Dr. B. Manjunatha, JSS AHER Vice-Chancellor Dr. H. Basavanagoudappa, Controller of Examinations at JSS AHER Dr. R. Sudeendra Bhat, Dean (Academics) Dr. Vishal Kumar Gupta, JSS Medical College Principal Dr. Narayanappa, JSS College of Pharmacy Vice-Principal Dr. G. V. Pujar, Ph.D Scholar Dr. Mohammad Daiyaan Khan, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Clinical Pharmacy at JSS College of Pharmacy Dr. Shilpa Palaksha, Secretary of Mysore District Chemists and Druggists Welfare Association Amanulla Khan and Assistant Professor at the Department of Clinical Pharmacy Dr. M.S. Srikanth were present.

Manipal Sakhi-Season 4

by Manipal Hospital held in city

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (KS) - Honouring the remarkable stories of women whose courage, perseverance and compassion shaped the world around them with some breaking barriers and setting a new benchmarks, city's Manipal Hospital hosted Manipal Sakhi-Season 4, an initiative that celebrates women, whose lives reflect resilience, service and an enduring commitment to making a difference at a private hotel in city recently.

Cluster Director at Kasturba Medical College in Mangalore Pramod Kunder and Manipal Hospital Director B.J. Sandeep Patel presided.

As part of the celebration, 30 women achievers from diverse walks of life were honoured for their achievements. The awardees represented various fields including education, healthcare, sports, entrepreneurship, social service, arts and community leadership.

Associate Vice-President – HRD at Infosys Preet Kushalappa Kodira, who was the chief guest, delivered the keynote address. She said "Women's strength and resilience are powerful forces that shape families, communities and society at large. To reach gender parity, we need focused intervention. By hosting such events, Manipal Hospital is taking a bold step towards an intentional and equitable society. It is inspiring to see the entire community-men and women alike-working together. Recognising these journeys not only honours their courage but also inspires more women to pursue their aspirations with confidence."

Speaking on the occasion, Pramod Kunder said, "Every woman we honour today represents resilience, determination, and a commitment to creating positive change. Their journeys remind us that true progress in society is built on courage and compassion. At Manipal Hospital, women's health remains a key priority and we are committed to support women through every stage of life with comprehensive and compassionate care. Through initiatives like Manipal Sakhi, we not only celebrate inspiring women but also reaffirm our commitment to promoting awareness, preventive care, and holistic well-being for women in our communities."

B.J. Sandeep Patel, who also spoke, emphasised the significance of recognising such journeys and said, "Behind every achievement lies a story of persistence, sacrifice and belief. Manipal Sakhi allows us to acknowledge these journeys and celebrate women whose contributions continue to uplift communities and inspire future generations."

Indian Premier League -2026

Bengaluru to host tournament opener

RCB to take on SRH in the inaugural match

New Delhi, Mar. 12 (Agencies)- The Indian Premier League (IPL) will return with its 19th edition from Mar. 28 onwards, with defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) taking on Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the opening match after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) unveiled the schedule for the first phase of the 2026 edition yesterday.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru will launch their title defence at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in a southern derby against Sunrisers Hyderabad. The venue was recently cleared to host IPL matches after months of uncertainty.

Earlier this month, the stadium received permission to stage matches for IPL 2026, bringing an end to the uncertainty that followed a tragic stampede on June 4, 2025, during celebrations of RCB's maiden IPL title triumph after 18 attempts. The incident had claimed 11 lives and led to a blanket ban on events at the venue.

Since the incident, the stadium had not hosted any major domestic competitions, including the Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy or the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20.

Following the latest clearances, the stadium is scheduled to host five of RCB's home matches during IPL 2026, while the remaining two home fixtures will be played at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium.

However, the BCCI added a note regarding the Bengaluru fixtures, stating that they remain subject to final inspection by the state authorities.

"The matches scheduled in Bengaluru are subject to clearance from the Expert Committee constituted by the Government of Karnataka. The committee will conduct a meeting and inspection of the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Mar. 13 during which a full-scale mock demonstration of match-day arrangements will be carried out to assess the stadium's preparedness for hosting IPL matches," the BCCI said.

The first phase of the tournament will be played from Mar. 28 to Apr. 12 and will feature 20 matches across 10 venues — Bengaluru, Mumbai, Guwahati, New Chandigarh, Lucknow, Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad.

The BCCI had delayed the release of the tournament schedule while awaiting clarity on the timeline of state elections before finalising logistical arrangements. BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia had earlier indicated that the schedule would be announced in two phases, keeping in mind the upcoming Assembly elections in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

During the first phase of the tournament, four double-headers will be played, with afternoon matches starting at 3.30 pm IST and evening matches beginning at 7.30 pm IST.

Depute MDA Manager to her home Department: RC to MDA Commr.

Shruti

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (MK&BS)- Following a pending criminal case against B. Shruti, Manager of Mysuru Development Authority (MDA), Regional Commissioner (RC) of Mysuru Division, has issued a official notification instructing that the said officer be deputed back to her home department.

On her request, Shruti had been deputed to MDA, but in the wake of a corruption case registered against her, the Government had instructed to revoke the deputation of Shruti, in view of public and administrative interest. However, MDA had not relieved Shruti, to clear the pending works.

As the MDA was dilly-dallying to relieve Shruti even after five days of issuing the order to send her to her home department, the office of Regional Commissioner wrote an official letter addressed to MDA Commissioner, to act on the orders immediately.

MCC demolishes 70 illegal street stalls near Vijayanagar Water Tank

(Continued from page 3)

Question of hygiene

However, MCC officials said several complaints had been received that the vendors were causing public inconvenience by blocking the footpaths.

They also noted that fast-food vendors were operating in unhygienic conditions. The area beneath the high-tension power line along the double road had been fully encroached upon by food stalls, prompting the clearance.

Vendors, however, alleged that nearby hotel owners had influenced the action. "We provided quality food without artificial colours or additives and operated with simple tarpaulin shelters. Now our livelihood is destroyed," they said.

Many vendors highlighted the issue of unemployment, stating that hundreds of families depended on these stalls for their livelihood. "SSLC examinations have begun and school fees have to be paid. Without an alternative space, this step is unjust," they said. They also claimed that 10 to 15 autorickshaws were damaged and that investments made through loans had been lost. The vendors demanded either reinstatement at the same location or allocation of an alternative site to continue their businesses.

'Instructions ignored'

Just ten days ago, a meeting of the City Street Vendors Committee was held and vendors were instructed to shift their business to another location. As the stalls were operating beneath a high-tension power line, CESC officials had warned about potential risks. In addition, domestic LPG cylinders were being illegally used at all the stalls. The clearance drive was therefore carried out as a precautionary measure to prevent any incident similar to the recent blast near Mysore Palace.

—Manjunath Reddy, Assistant Commissioner, Zone-5

LPG short supply heats up demand

(Continued from page 3)

Adequate stocks

While demand has increased, store owners are stocking up on induction stoves. They are leaving no stone unturned to ensure sufficient stock so that customers visiting their shops do not return disappointed.

"The market for induction stoves was not that active earlier. But the sudden surge in demand has made us ensure there is sufficient stock for sale. People have been visiting our stores with enquiries for induction stoves in the price range of Rs. 1,400 to Rs. 3,500. We have ensured there is adequate stock to meet customer needs," said Faizy Mohammed Shariff, Director, Shariff Sales and General Agencies Pvt. Ltd., Mysuru.

Generally, induction stoves are used by bachelors and students living in rented rooms or apartments, and in some cases as a lifestyle product.

However, with the war in the Middle East escalating and the possibility of oil prices, including LPG, rising, people have been rushing to electronic stores to buy induction stoves.

"Currently, induction stoves are the only alternative to LPG stoves. The waiting period for domestic LPG cylinders is between 21 and 28 days. Normally, we used to get enquiries for induction stoves mainly from tier-1 cities, but over the past week, we have been receiving many enquiries from tier-2 and tier-3 cities such as Mysuru, Kalaburagi and Ballari," said N. Boregowda, Chief Business Officer, Shubham Electronic Store, Mysuru.

The demand for induction stoves has increased by nearly 150 percent compared to normal days. There are some stock issues, but we are managing to ensure that every customer who walks in for an induction stove walks out with one," he added.

Firewood depots await demand

While restaurants are exploring alternative modes of cooking by sourcing firewood and hearths in view of decreasing LPG supplies, the situation remains normal at wood depots in the city.

Surendra of Sri Kabbalamma Firewood Depot, opposite New Court on Fifth Main, Fifth Cross, Jayanagar, told *Star of Mysore* that, apart from regular customers such as non-vegetarian restaurants and traditional households that still use firewood for funeral pyres, there has been no significant change in demand so far. However, he added that demand may pick up in the future.

He noted that the lack of chimney and hearth facilities, along with the presence of elderly persons in many households who may suffer from smoke inhalation, discourages people in urban areas from opting for traditional firewood cooking.

However, if the shortage of LPG supplies continues for a longer period, firewood may once again see a rise in demand, he said.

Former J&K CM Farooq Abdullah survives assassination bid

Srinagar, Mar. 12 (Agencies)- Former Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Chief Minister and J&K National Conference President Farooq Abdullah, who was attending a marriage ceremony, survived an 'assassination attempt' in Jammu after an attacker tried to shoot him at point-blank range yesterday evening.

Farooq

The attacker was just a few steps behind the J&K leader, his arm in line with his shoulder, did fire a gun shot, but the commandos pushed him. The shot missed the target and Abdullah had a narrow escape, showed a dramatic video.

The attacker, identified as Kamal Singh Jamwal, was immediately taken into custody. Videos from the scene showed people thrashing him soon after he was caught.

After his arrest, the attacker is seen sitting on a chair, telling Police he is a resident of Purani Mandi in Jammu. The 65-year-old attacker appeared to have no remorse and has reportedly said that he was waiting for this moment for last 20 years.

Mysore Fashion Week
Season-8 from tomorrow

Mannara Chopra

Vatsal Sheth

Mysuru, Mar. 12 (VNS) - The three-day Season 8 of Mysore Fashion Week (MFW) will be held from tomorrow (Mar. 13) till Mar. 15 at Silent Shores Resort and Spa in city.

MYSORE FASHION WEEK

This season will feature celebrity showstoppers including Ishita Dutta, Vatsal Sheth, Mannara Chopra, Anupriya Goenka, Chaitra J. Achar, Roshni Prakash, Suraj Gowda, Aditi Pohankar and Ritu Shivpuri among others, adding star power to the runway.

The runway will showcase collections by renowned designers such as Rosy Ahluwalia, Riyaz Ganji, Rehan Shah, Suresh Menon, Bhargavi Kunam, Kingshuk Bhadhuri, AynaaWorrld and Pankaj Soni, alongside emerging design talent.

"The 8th season of Mysore Fashion Week will be an extremely colourful edition, characterised by a collection of styled clothing, celebrity moments and brand experience, in a reflection of the evolving spirit of Edifices of India," said Jayanthi Ballal, Founder, Mysore Fashion Week.

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Email : siddalingayya.hr@bhanavihospital.com

Encanto Village Resort
Bilikere, Mysore

STAFF REQUIRED

- **Receptionist** – 1 Post
- **Chef** – 1 Post

Salary: Negotiable

Contact: 9741452776

St. Jude Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving for all wishes granted. Thanks to Novena at Anugraha Retreat Centre. Watch at 6.15 pm every Thursday on Youtube

—Mary Johnson

STAR OF MYSORE

FOR ADVERTISEMENT

Please Call: 0821-2496522 / 23

2 AIR FORCE SELECTION BOARD, MYSURU-11

NOTICE FOR WET CANTEEN

1. Canteen contractor is called for WET CANTEEN at 2 Air Force Selection Board, Siddhartha Nagar, Mysuru-11.
   1 On all week days from 0800 hrs to 1700 hrs.
   2 Order of preference: War widows, Disabled soldier, Ex-serviceman, spouses/ widows of Ex-servicemen.
   3 Interested contractors to submit application by post latest by 23 Mar 2026 to the address mentioned below:

SI Office

2 Air Force Selection Board, CV Complex, Siddhartha Nagar, Mysuru-11

Contact No. 9481351894

Name: D Yashas

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WORD OF THE DAY

Besotted

Pronunciation: bih-SAH-tud (adjective)
Meaning: Someone described as besotted is so in love that they are unable to think clearly; they are utterly infatuated. Besotted can also be used as a synonym of drunk.
Origin: Stumble on the word sot and you will likely find it attached to a person who tends to over-imbibe. The word has referred to a habitual drunkard since the late 16th century, and before that — from the days of Old English — it referred to a fool generally. The now-archaic verb sot followed a similar trajectory, its original meaning of "to cause to appear foolish" being joined later by its "to drink alcohol excessively" meaning. The earliest known recorded use of the related adjective besotted (in the late 16th century, from the the verb besot), however, described a state of figurative intoxication: one besotted was stupefied by love rather than liquor. The still-current sense of besotted meaning "drunk" didn't show up until the early 19th century. In fact, evidence of the "infatuated" sense of besotted also predates the tipple-related senses of the noun sot, verb sot, and verb besot, suggesting perhaps that love may be the strongest intoxicant of all.
Example: "Kathrin [tour guide] is endearingly besotted with her adopted country and spoke about it with the reverence of a convert. Some more things I heard from her that contribute to people in Finland being happy included: sauna culture discouraging fatphobia; emphasis on design — that means even very basic, cheap things are beautiful and robust; and, of course, nature." — Imogen West-Knights, Slate, 27 Aug. 2025.

THE ODD WORD

Bedswerver

Unfaithful spouse.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Dog days of summer

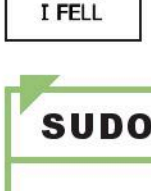
Meaning: The phrase 'Dog days of summer' is used to talk about hot, sultry days.
Origin: The expression 'Dog days of summer' is celestial in origin. The term indicates a period between July 3 and August 11 when the Dog Star, Sirius, rises at the same time or near the same time as the sun in the Northern hemisphere.
Example: "Popsicles are great for staying cool during dog days of summer."

QUOTE BOX

At times I think and at times I am. —**Paul Valery**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:



Answer: Eiffel Tower (I fell tower).

SUDOKU

2			6				1	5
	9							7
		8		3	7			
	6		4					
5								2
					3		8	
			5	9		2		
1							5	
8	7				6			9

Answer to previous puzzle

1	6	2	5	9	4	7	3	8
5	7	3	2	8	6	4	9	1
8	4	9	3	1	7	2	5	6
7	8	6	1	3	9	5	4	2
2	9	5	7	4	8	6	1	3
4	3	1	6	2	5	8	7	9
6	1	4	9	7	2	3	8	5
9	2	7	8	5	3	1	6	4
3	5	8	4	6	1	9	2	7

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

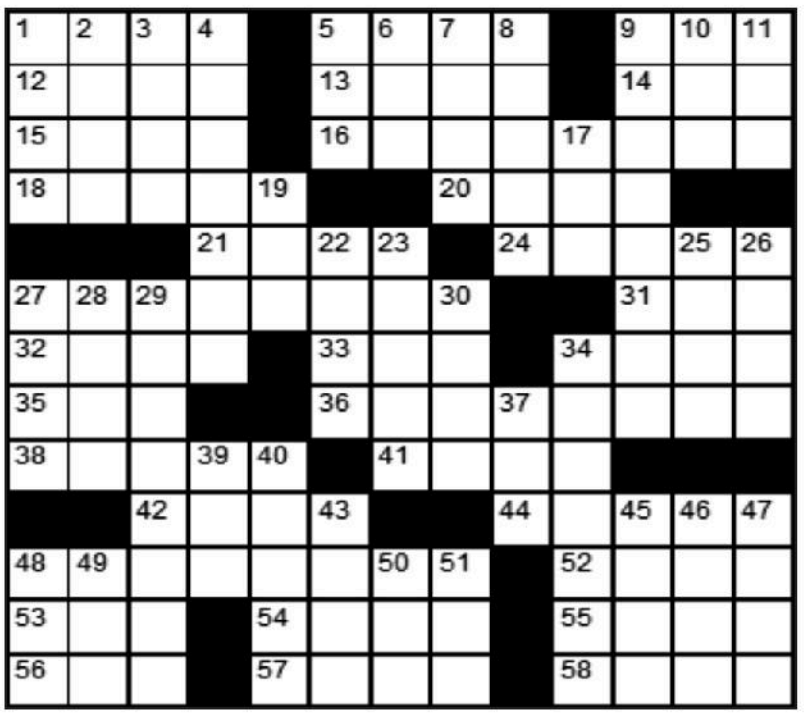
CROSS WORD

ACROSS:
1 Couturier Cassini
5 Young boys
9 TV network
12 Round-bottomed water bottle for us Indians
13 Plan detail
14 Tint or slight colour
15 High: prefix
16 Undermine
18 Ex-Hollywood star Errol ____
20 In two minds?
21 Goes to law
24 Musical instrument
27 Itchy
31 London's ___ Gardens
32 Cunning manoeuvre
33 Owns or possesses
34 Unit of structure in computer storing one bit of data
35 Away
36 Gorges
38 Taunt or bother
41 Formerly, once
42 Melody
44 Book of maps
48 Ready to resist and fight? (2,2,4)
52 Greek vowel
53 In short, an athlete who plays for pay
54 Nonchalant
55 N in NB
56 Riya or Sushmita?
57 Old Russian ruler
58 Growl - "rang" anagram?

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

O	B	S		T	A	L	C		C	H	E	W
A	A	H		S	H	A	H		I	O	W	A
R	H	O	D	E	S	I	A		T	E	E	N
S	T	O	U	T		R	O	T	A			
			D	S	M		S	E	D	U	C	E
M	P	H		E	L	S		L	E	V	E	R
A	R	E	A		I	S	P		L	E	D	A
D	I	R	T	Y		E	O	N		A	E	S
E	M	B	L	E	M		T	O	Y			
			A	S	I	S		V	A	U	L	T
O	D	E	R		S	T	E	E	P	L	E	S
C	R	A	G		D	E	A	L		N	I	A
T	Y	R	E		O	P	T	S		A	A	R

DOWN
1 "Loaf" around as a king!
2 Take it easy
3 English painter
4 Contradict
5 Lightning Sensor Sys.
6 All points addressable, abbr.
7 Financial obligation
8 Journalistic coup
9 PM to Chandragupta Maurya
10 Annoy or pester
11 Observe or look at
17 Numerical prefix
19 Crazy person
22 Reverberate
23 Remove facial hair
25 After deductions
26 Has debts
27 A small quantity - as in, "a __ of tea"?
28 Fact or idea that serves as a guide
29 Turn of a wheel
30 Belgian river
34 Staking or risking
37 Natal or Jo'burg locale
39 Centre of solar system
40 Make into law
43 Cupid's alias
45 Kind of diving bird; a crazy person
46 Indian wheaten flour
47 European river
48 Bull periods
49 Before as a prefix
50 An extinct flightless bird
51 Camera type



CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

VI MYJWZC BIFMWKI FLLIOXAJD, DJX ZAHI

PJWDNMXIKM UP XYI FKCJK JL AXM TFMMAJD,

UWX UP AXM MXKIDNXY FDC OJDMXFDOP.

TODAY'S CLUE: V EQUALS W

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: Men are disposed to live honestly, if the means of doing so are open to them.

SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

- **Sangam Theatre** — **Ph: 2520494**
  Hayagrriva (K) - 4 Shows
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** — **Mob: 99008-20093**
  Rakkasapuradhol (K) - 4 Shows
- **Padma Theatre** — **Ph: 2521923**
  Vadam (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Woodlands Theatre** — **Ph: 2422871**
  The Rise of Ashoka (K) - 4 Shows
- **Gayathri Theatre** — **Ph: 2443568**
  Sampathige Savaal (K) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** — **Mob: 98454-14691**
  Oreo (K) - 2 Shows; *Jayakrishna (K)* - 2 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** — **Ph: 2420885**
  Majestic (K) - 4 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** — **Ph: 2423554**
  Thaai Kizhavi (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — **Mob: 98863-25207**
  O' Romeo 3 (H) - 3 Shows

MOVIES AT DRC CINEMAS Ph: 4240422 4241800

The Kerala Story 2 Goes Beyond (H)	(S-1)	10.50 am, 1.35 pm, 4.20 pm, 7.05 pm, 9.50 pm
Hoppers (E)	(S-2)	11.35 am, 4.40 pm
The Bride (E)	(S-2)	1.55 pm, 9.45 pm
Pancha Ratnagalu (K)	(S-3)	11.05 am
Vadam (Ta)	(S-3)	1.10 pm
Bheema Theeradalli (K)	(S-3)	4.00 pm
Sesha 2016 (K)	(S-3)	7.55 pm
Sambhavam Adhyayam Onnu (Ma)	(S-3)	10.30 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	(S-4)	11.00 am, 7.10 pm
Mustafa Mustafa (Ta)	(S-4)	1.40 pm
Munna (Te)	(S-4)	9.50 pm

MOVIES AT MYSURU VISION CINEMAS Ph: 2973519

Sesha 2016 (K)	:	1.30 pm, 4.00 pm
Antaryaami (K)	:	1.45 pm
99/66 (Ta)	:	4.30 pm
Bheema Theeradalli (K)	:	7.30 pm
Faces (Ma)	:	7.45 pm

MOVIES AT NEXUS MALL

The Bride (E)	:	11.00 am, 1.50 pm, 7.20 pm, 10.10 pm
Hoppers (E)	:	11.25 am, 1.50 pm, 7.20 pm
Hayagrriva (K)	:	12.45 pm, 4.15 pm, 9.45 pm
Mrithyunjay (Te)	:	1.00 pm, 4.00 pm
The Kerala Story 2 Goes Beyond (H)	:	1.15 pm, 4.00 pm, 6.45 pm, 9.30 pm
Kadhal Reset Repeat (Ta)	:	1.20 pm, 9.50 pm
Munna (Te)	:	3.40 pm
Mustafa Mustafa (Ta)	:	4.15 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	:	4.40 pm, 7.05 pm
Thaai Kizhavi (Ta)	:	6.50 pm
Majestic (K)	:	7.15 pm
Scream 7 (E)	:	10.00 pm
Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety (H)	:	10.10 pm

MOVIES AT GARUDA MALL

Bheema Theeradalli (K)	:	12.45 pm
Thaai Kizhavi (Ta)	:	12.45 pm, 7.00 pm
The Kerala Story 2 Goes Beyond (H)	:	1.20 pm, 6.30 pm
Mrithyunjay (Te)	:	1.25 pm
Munna (Te)	:	3.30 pm
Hayagrriva (K)	:	3.45 pm, 10.00 pm
Hoppers (E)	:	4.05 pm, 9.15 pm
Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety (H)	:	4.05 pm
Majestic (K)	:	6.50 pm
Sesha 2016 (K)	:	6.55 pm
Kadhal Reset Repeat (Ta)	:	9.30 pm
Sambhavam Adhyayam Onnu (Ma)	:	9.45 pm

Vid. Prince Rama Varma to perform at Ganabharathi tomorrow

Vid. Prince Rama Varma

Vid. S.R. Vinu

Vid. Trichy Harikumar

Vid. N. Amrit

Mysuru, Mar. 12- Ganabharathi, Mysuru, has organised Dr. R. Sundarachar and Smt. Saraswathy Rao Memorial Concert at its premises in Kuvempunagar tomorrow (Mar. 13) at 6 pm.

Vid. Prince Rama Varma from Thiruvananthapuram will render a vocal concert. He is accompanied by **Vid. Avaneeswaram S.R. Vinu** on violin, **Vid. Trichy B. Harikumar** on mridanga and **Vid. N. Amrit** on kanjira.

The event is sponsored by T.S. Venugopal and Shailaja.

Artistes' profile

Vid. Aswathi Thirunal Rama Varma, popularly known as Prince Rama Varma, is a vocalist as well as an exponent of the Saraswati Veena. He has a repertoire of Swathi compositions that is unmatched even by the great masters. He has performed globally and in the all the prestigious music organisations in India. He sphere-headed a move to allow women into Navaratri Mantapam both as artistes as well as listeners.

Vid. Avaneeswaram S.R. Vinu is 'A Top' Grade Artiste of AIR and Doordarshan. He is a Kalashree Awardee from Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi. Vinu is one of the sought-after accompanying violinists. He has performed all over the world with many leading musicians.

Vid. Trichy B. Harikumar hails from Changanasery. He has accompanied legendary musicians such as K.V. Narayanaswamy, P.S. Narayanaswamy, Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna and Madurai T.N. Seshagopalan.

Vid. N. Amrit is the leading and top ranking kanjira artiste of the world. He has been a recipient of innumerable awards and accolades. He has collaborated with international stars.

Amrit has worked with Music Directors like Oscar Award Winner A.R. Rahman, Nagendra (of Rajan-Nagendra Duo), Hamsalekha, V. Manohar, 'Grammy Award Winner' Ricky Kej and others.

EVENTS TOMORROW (MARCH 13)

- **St. Joseph's College of Education, Jayalakshmipuram:** 'Kalasrushti 2026, a State-level Inter-Collegiate Cultural and Literary Fest for teacher trainees of B.Ed Colleges, College campus, **9 am onwards.**
- **National Women's Commission and Karnataka State Women's Commission:** 'Maha Jansunwai' (Women's Commission to Your Doorsteps) programme, women can air their grievances at the programme which will be attended by Karnataka State Women's Commission Chairperson Dr. Nagalakshmi Choudhary, Sri Chamundeshwari Auditorium, Regional Commissioner's Officer, opp. Kalamandira, Hunsur Road, **10 am.**
- **Gandhi Shilp Bazaar:** 152nd Handicrafts Exhibition and Sale, JSS Mysore Urban Haat, Mysuru, **10.30 am to 9 pm.**
- **Indian Dastkaar Handloom & Handicraft Haat:** Exclusive exhibition on Handlooms, Handicrafts & Lifestyle products, Scouts & Guides Ground, behind Old DC's Office, **10.30 am to 9.30 pm.**
- **Mysore Fashion Week:** Season-8, Silent Shores Resort, Spa and Convention Centre, **5 pm onwards.**

Story-telling

Mysuru, Mar. 12- As part of 'Kathe Kelona Banni-923,' Kalasuruchi has organised story-telling by **Dr. A.R. Krishnamurthy,** former Professor & Chairman, Department of Clinical Psychology, Kuvempu University, Shivamogga, at Suruchi Rangamane in Kuvempunagar on Mar. 14 from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

For details, contact Mob: 92435-81097 or 99459-43115.

MOVIES AT MALL OF MYSORE

The Bride (E)	:	11.50 am, 5.05 pm, 10.20 pm
The Kerala Story 2 Goes Beyond (H)	:	12.45 pm, 7.15 pm
Thaai Kizhavi (Ta)	:	1.25 pm, 9.45 pm
Kadhal Reset Repeat (Ta)	:	1.40 pm
Hoppers (E)	:	2.40 pm, 7.55 pm
Hayagrriva (K)	:	3.30 pm, 9.30 pm
Bheema Theeradalli (K)	:	4.25 pm
Mrithyunjay (Te)	:	4.35 pm
Majestic (K)	:	6.35 pm
Sesha 2016 (K)	:	7.10 pm
Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety (H)	:	10.00 pm

MOVIES AT CENTRO MALL

The Kerala Story 2 Goes Beyond (H)	:	11.40 am, 4.50 pm, 10.00 pm
Majestic (K)	:	12.50 pm
Mrithyunjay (Te)	:	1.30 pm
Hoppers (E)	:	2.25 pm, 7.35 pm
Hayagrriva (K)	:	3.45 pm, 10.10 pm
Kadhal Reset Repeat (Ta)	:	4.10 pm
Vadam (Ta)	:	5.25 pm
Maggi Pusthaka (K)	:	6.50 pm
Bheema Theeradalli (K)	:	7.05 pm
Pancha Ratnagalu (K)	:	8.20 pm
Sambhavam Adhyayam Onnu (Ma)	:	9.50 pm
Sesha 2016 (K)	:	10.30 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there is no minimum audience of 15.

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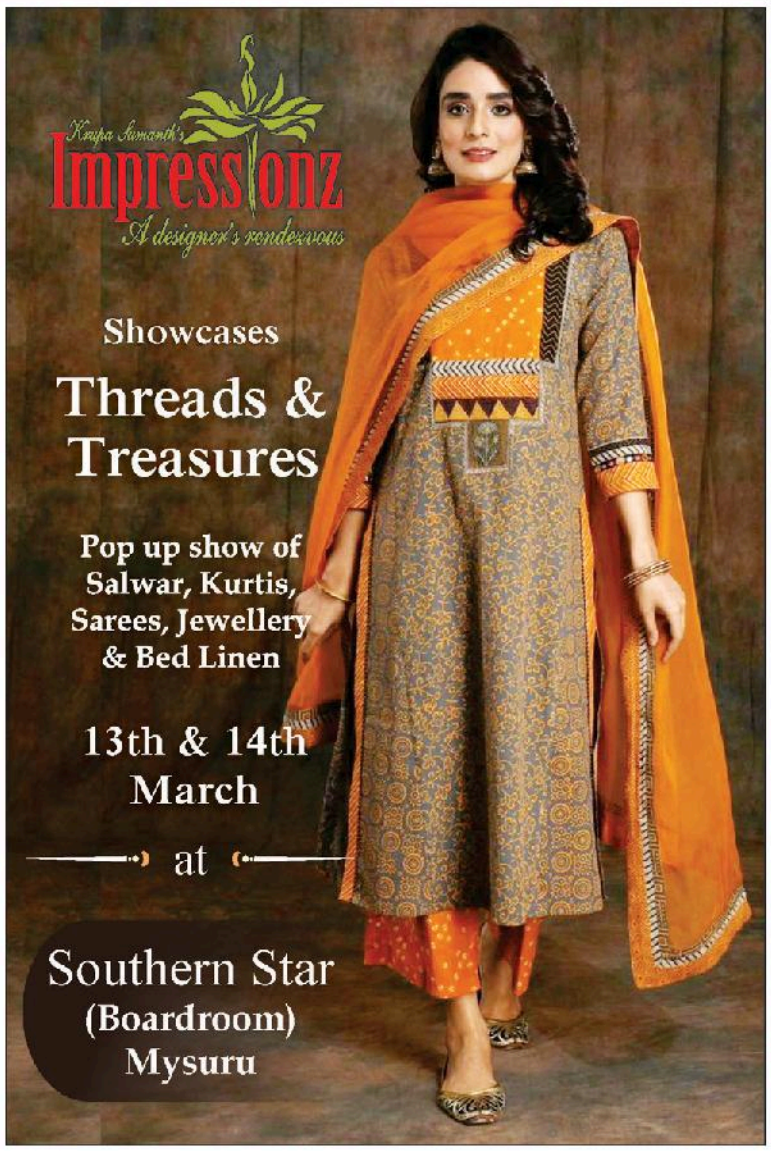

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2. "Meghna Haven", T N Pura Main Rd, Nadanahalli, Mysuru-28
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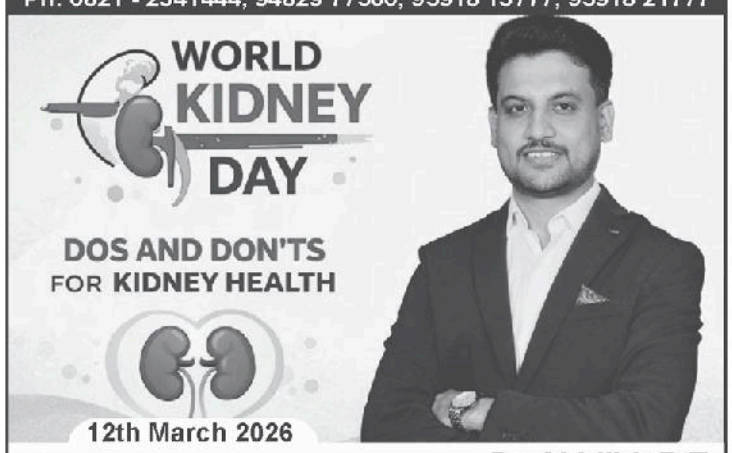

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Upload a video recording in the registration link by 15th March

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School Students(Age 11 to 14 years)
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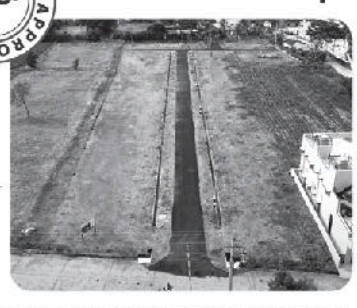

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